Blaschko says that of 2000 private patients with venereal disease 60 per cent originated with prostitutes, 10 per cent with shop-girls, 4 per cent with barmaids.

The statement that the proportion of diseased women among the recognized prostitutes is somewhere between 30 and 50 per cent is generally accepted as being the state of things throughout Europe.

A commission consisting of Virchow, Blaschko, Meyer, Strassman, Langerhaus, Villaret, B. Frankel, Pistor, Lewin, S. Neumann, B. and M. Wolf were appointed to consider the subject; and they reported that the sanitary conditions and measures existing in Berlin for the prevention and treatment of venereal disease were iusufficient. And this was the general opinion arrived at by all the men throughout Europe who had the investigation in hand,— that the protection did not protect, neither did the control check the advance of the evil.

Contrary to the opinion expressed in the Berlin Congress, it seems to be generally held and supported by statistics that the houses of prostitution are much greater sources of danger than the inscribed women ; the statistics given tending to show that the number of infected women in the licensed houses amounts to about 40 to 50 per cent, while the number among the inscribed women is under 30 per cent.

In very many of the large cities the number of licensed houses has steadily fallen ; for example, Paris, 1850, 212 ; 1880, 133 ; January, 1888, 67. In St. Petersburg, in the fourteen years from 1872–1886, the number fell from 220 to 82 ; at the same time the inscribed free women increased from 2500 to 4500. In Belgium there has been a steady diminution in the numbers of houses and inmates, so that now there are only about one-third as compared with twenty years ago,— all of this going to show that there is a tendency for this form of dissipation to go out of fashion. This, together with the fact that the women of the licensed houses, from their more frequently indulging in copulation, and their inability to choose their companions, and their lack of self-responsibility, are much less careful of their bodies and hence more apt to be diseased. In Antwerp it has been seriously proposed to do away with the seven licensed houses and to have only inscribed free prostitutes.

THE RELATIVE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS OF BENGAL PRISONERS.

A brief article on the above subject, by Surgeon-Captain W. J. Buchanan, Superintendent of the Central Gaol, Bhagalpur, India, appeared in the London *Lancet* for August 24, 1895 : —

The following table has been compiled from office records in the Central Gaol, Bhagalpur. It is based upon the recorded heights and weights of over 8000 male adult prisoners, most of whom have been admitted to Bhagalpur Gaol, all in good health, in the last five years : —

Height.	Weight.	Height.	Weight.
5 ft. 0 in.	98 lbs.	5 ft. 7 in.	118 lbs.
5 " 1 "	100 "	5 " 8 "	122 "
5 " 2 "	103 "	5 " 9 "	128 "
5 " 3 "	106 "	5 " 10 "	132 "
5 " 4 "	108 "	5 " 11 "	154 "
5 " 5 "	112 "	6 " 0 "	138 "
5 " 6 "	115 "		

All those recorded as having been admitted in indifferent or bad health have been excluded from these figures. They therefore represent the average weight for each height of healthy men. The figures differ slightly from a similar table published by me in the *Indian Medical Gazette* some time ago. That list was found to be based, in some instances, on too few cases, men over 5 feet 8 inches not having been found in sufficient numbers. This has been rectified by an examination of all the taller men at present in the gaol, and by use of figures kindly supplied by the medical superintendents of many other gaols in this province.

The figures have been found to be applicable to most parts of the province of Bengal, excluding, of course, the hillmen, such as are found in Nepal and the Darjiling Himalayas. They have been tested to a large extent also in the Central Gaol, Nagpur, in the central provinces, and found to apply almost exactly. They do not, however, apply to the inhabitants of the northwest provinces,— Oudh and the Punjab,— where the men are of a taller and heavier type. They contrast markedly with figures recorded for heights and weights of European adults. As no table of the kind appears to have been published before, it is considered that they will prove interesting to anthropologists in Europe, as well as useful to medical officers in charge of gaols in India. For practical purposes I find the following rule sufficiently accurate for ascertaining the normal weight of a man of this class. Taking 100 pounds as the correct weight for a man of 5 feet, if we add 3 pounds for every inch above 5 feet, we shall arrive at a fair average normal weight,— *e. g.*, a man of 5 feet 5 inches $= 5 \times 3 + 100 = 115$ pounds. It must be remembered that a prisoner passed as of "good health" is considered liable to hard labor. I maintain that if a man of this part of India reaches the standard above prescribed he will be capable of performing the severest form of hard labor.

In his work, "La Donna Delinquente," Lombroso gives a rule for computing the normal weight of an individual, derived from measurements of Italians. The rule is as follows: "A person is regarded as having a weight equal to the average in whom the number of kilogrammes which represent the weight is equal to the number of centimetres by which their statures surpass the metre." This is an exceedingly rapid rule for calculating weights for height, if we use the decimal measurements. It works out as follows in pounds and inches: Starting with 110 pounds for 5 feet, for every inch above this 5 pounds are to be added. This is too high an estimate for ordinary peasants of the province of Lower Bengal, but, as far as my experience goes of men of the northwest provinces, and Punjab in India, I think it would prove fairly exact.

LAW OF LARGE NUMBERS.

An interesting illustration of method in statistical computation is furnished in a paper by Dr. Morton Prince, of Boston, entitled "What Number of Cases is Necessary to Eliminate the Effect of Chance in Mortality Statistics, Especially Those of Typhoid Fever?" published in the Boston *Medical and Surgical Journal*, October 17, 1895. The author begins with the statement of a proposition: —

According to the doctrine of chances, the larger the groups the smaller the variations will be found to be between the rates of mortality of the individual groups. By increasing the size of the groups, other things being equal,— that is, the conditions remaining the same, — we should expect to find that with groups of a sufficiently large size the mortality would be practically constant, and we should have a standard mortality; but, of course, the conditions do not remain the same. Nevertheless, we should expect to find that in groups containing a sufficiently large number of cases these fluctuations would be reduced to a relatively small figure. The question is, what number of cases is necessary to eliminate variations due to chance, and thus reduce the fluctuations to this degree?

The study is based upon the statistics of typhoid fever in the Boston City Hospital during the period 1882 to 1894. During this period 3176 cases entered the hospital; of these, 412 died, a mortality of 12.66 per cent. Various groupings are made by the author upon which mortality rates are calculated. We have not space here to give more than one of the fifteen tables illustrating this point. The last table is as follows: —